

REPORT NO.

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SHORTCOMINGS

Agriculture: "Serious shortcomings" are said to be continuing in livestock-raising and cotton-picking. Slow plowing is also the common complaint of the regional papers which trace the trouble to the "workers in agriculture" --the machine-tractor station personnel-- rather than the farmers.

RADYANSKE PODILYE (18 September) declares that the Kamenets-Podolsk Oblast stockbreeding plan fell short of its mark in a number of rayons, and that "a large percentage" of the available stock is barren and shows "a great drop" in productivity. Cases of "scattering livestock and squandering it in an illegal manner" are said to be common in the Shepetovski, Ostropolski and other rayons. The fodder plan has not been fulfilled in the Bazaliyski, Slavutski and other rayons. The same paper (25 September) refers to the "great losses" of livestock sustained in the Dunayevetski Rayon where most of the stock "had been maintained on a starvation ration" resulting in a corresponding drop in its productivity. The heads of the rayon agricultural administration, Mikhailek and Kushnir, concludes the editorial, "are cheating the oblast organizations, the Party and the State (oduruyut oblastni organizatsyi, oduruyut partyu i derzhavu) while the rayon Party and Soviet organizations tolerate this evil practice. Livestock breeding, the paper warns, is also "being jeopardized" in Staro-Ushitsky and Minkovetsky rayons.

VINNITSKA PRAVDA (in Ukrainian, 19 September) cites instances of theft of public land, cattle and money in terms that bode ill for the culprits, and reminds its readers that a stringent law against such infractions was passed by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR in 1946. That law, the paper declares, was necessitated by numerous cases of violation of the kolkhoz statute during the war and in the first postwar period -- and it appears to be necessary now, too. There is no reference to the provisions of the mentioned law or to the penalties involved, but the editorial points out that in the five years since it was enacted "thousands of hectares of communal land...livestock, money and other forms of wealth" have been returned to their rightful owners, the collective farms. Thefts of public land and infringements of kolkhoz democracy (narushenie kolkhoznoy demokrati), says VINNITSKA PRAVDA, are prevalent "even today." A recent checkup has disclosed that more than 1,800 hectares of land had been appropriated by various individuals and organizations who were also found to have illegal possession of three buildings, 49 assorted agricultural machines, 37 head of cattle, six horses and nearly 30,000 rubles in cash.

Another near-criminal offence, as charged by the paper, is the payment of collective farmers for work not performed. A case in point is the "Lenin" Collective Farm (Murovano-Kurylovetski Rayon) where a total of 1, 200 labor hours have been "overpaid" in the cultivation of sugar beets alone. There is no intimation as to whether such "overpayments" are the result of bookkeeping inefficiency or of collusion between farm labor and management, but scattered reports of similar "accommodations" --from Moldavia and Kazakhstan--are suggestive of the latter possibility. This belief is heightened by VINNITSKA PRAVDA's hint that enlarged collective farms (ukrupnennie kolkhozi) might provide the necessary solution inasmuch as they provide "better opportunities" for the observance of the kolkhoz statute.

Another editorial complaint is that "democracy" is virtually unknown in some collective farms. The administration of the "Peromoha" and "Chkalov" kolkhozes, for example, acts on the most important questions of kolkhoz life "without ever consulting" the collective farmers.

Moldavian listeners are told in a brief announcement from Kishinev that the Central Committee of the Moldavian Communist Party is now looking into the matter of kolkhoz statute violations, and that "measures for the liquidation of such violations" were discussed at a special session. (in Moldavian, 21 September). A broadcast from Alma Ata (in Russian, 22 September) emphasizes that the present grain allocation to individual farmers is being made "under the system of payments in proportion to registered work days."

PRAVDA (19 September) cites a number of kolkhoz statute violations and says that "it would be wrong to assume" that the struggle for observing the charter can now be relaxed. Suggesting more determined measures by the Party, the paper discloses that in Poltava Oblast persons "having no connection with collective farm production" are allowed to draw payments from collective farm labor funds. Implicitly referring to this as the effect,

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PRAVDA pursues the theme by pointing to the cause of such malpractice: in a number of collective farms of Vladimir Oblast "fundamental questions" are settled in administrative session without reference to general meetings.

VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (26 September) deplores the "bad conditions" (plokhie uslovia) in Verkhne--Teplovski, Belolutski, Popasnyanski and Stanichno-Luganski rayons where the annual plan for the construction of livestock premises has been fulfilled by only 9 to 20%. The number of shelters in those rayons "by no means" corresponds to the available number of head of cattle, and the breakdown in the construction program is laid to the "formalistic attitude" adopted by the consumers union and other organizations which fail to provide the necessary building materials.

Plowing operations in the Ukraine are invariably described as poor in quality, on an inadequate scale and slow in tempo. KIROVOGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (18 September) admits that the "oblast as a whole" is behind in its plowing. Novo-Guryevski Rayon, the slowest of them all, is said to have completed only 9.8% of the plan by 15 September. Among the other rayons which need a little prodding, according to the paper, are Ustinovski, Zlatopolski, Tyshkovski, Khmelevski, Dolynski, Adzhamski and an unspecified number of others. Opportunism and loose organization, "not yet eliminated" by the Party and executive committees, are held responsible for the sorry state of affairs.

BOLSHEVITSKOYE ZNAMYA (21 September) notes the serious shortcomings "on the part of the leaders" of the Odessa Agricultural Rayon where neither the harvesting of late crops nor the plowing is showing progress. The severe warning (strogoye preduprezhdenie) given to the mentioned officials who "will be held personally responsible" for further violations of agricultural rules is implicitly extended to the leaders of Kominternovski and Ovideopolski rayons where infringements are deplored but not specified. On 25 September the same paper charges that the entire Odessa Oblast is more than 30% short of its agricultural targets as of 20 September. Responsibility for the "backwardness" is now pinned on the oblast machine-tractor stations, many of whose machines are lying idle, while the rayon Party and executive committees are said to be "also partly guilty" for failing to foster "the spirit of Communist attitude" among the tractor brigades. The situation is said to be particularly bad in Belyaevski, Razdelnyanski and Tsebrikovski rayons, in addition to those already mentioned on 21 September, where "less than one quarter" of the area for spring crops has been plowed. It is still worse in Shyryaevski and Gaivoronski rayons where the spring plowing plan has been completed "by less than 10%."

NADNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA finds that the plowing done by the machine-tractor stations of Kherson Oblast is extremely unsatisfactory: "hardly one fifth of the total area" had been plowed by 10 September. The mobile workshops --equipped for minor repairs and stationed in the fields--are not available when needed "because very often (they are used) for trips by managerial workers." In some places also, notably in Kherson Rural Rayon, the tractor drivers are not provided with hot food. (19 September)

SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS (25 September) reports "inadmissible delays" in plowing operations, particularly in Dobrovolski and Yenakievski rayons, but does not expand on the subject. MOLOT (27 September) refers briefly to the "many machine-tractor stations" in the Rostov Oblast which were found totally unprepared for winter grain sowing.

The recently-instituted three-year agricultural courses are not doing so well, and mass instruction of collective and state-farm cadres "still leaves much to be desired in some krais, oblasts and republics," says PRAVDA (24 September). The trouble, the paper claims, is to be found in the USSR Ministry of Agriculture whose agricultural propaganda is said to reveal "serious deficiencies." Kursk Oblast, where the enrollment of farmer-students has not yet begun, is singled out as the worst of the lot. The oblast Party committee is also reminded of its dereliction of duty: it had "acknowledged" its work as unsatisfactory and mapped ways and means to improve it but "the good intentions remained on paper." (It may be recalled that Melnikov, member of the Ukrainian Central Party Committee, dealt at some length with the problem of agricultural cadre training, referring primarily to the new collective farms of Western Ukraine. The above-mentioned PRAVDA editorial, on the other hand, while not naming any specific areas outside of Kursk Oblast, obviously sees the problem as country-wide.)

Lack of agricultural propaganda, incidentally, is also held responsible for the apathetic attitude toward the current rayon agricultural exhibitions where "no attention has been

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paid to the spreading of progressive ideas." (VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 19 September)
Agricultural study groups in Nizhneduvanski, Troitski and Pokrovski rayons, says the paper, "are slowly falling apart" because local Party and other officials show "no interest whatsoever" in their work.

Slow grain deliveries and poor fodder preparations are briefly discussed in two KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA editorials (16 and 30 September). In Taldy-Kurgan, Akmolinsk, Kokchetav and Eastern Kazakhstan oblasts delays in grain harvesting "have been observed." Pavlodar, West Kazakhstan and Akmolinsk oblasts are behind plan in their fodder preparations.

VINNITSKA PRAVDA publishes an open letter to the collective farmers of Vinnitsa Oblast from the "Lenin" Kolkhoz members who tell of their achievements and rewards in the form of greater earnings, implicitly urging the others to emulate their example:

This year our kolkhozniks are receiving two kilograms of grain for every work day. Thus a plowman receives 202 kilograms of grain if he completes his seasonal plowing assignment of 18 hectares, and 40.4 kilograms of sugar. Every brigade leader will receive additional 40 work days' payment on the successful completion of the seasonal assignment. (19 September)

The mentioned rates of pay are apparently far above the average for a decision of the oblast Party Committee ordered all the oblast newspapers, including VINNITSKA PRAVDA, to "publicize this letter" and "the achievements of the advanced plowmen."

Cotton: Cotton picking in the Ukraine, particularly in Kherson and Nikolayev oblasts, is slow enough to elicit official concern, and RYDANSKA UKRAINA (20 September) reveals that only half of the required number of cotton pickers are at work, and that the amount of cotton picked per hectare is "four to five times smaller" than the average for Kherson Oblast. The negligence and inefficiency of the appropriate agricultural officials, the paper asserts, is further aggravated by the inexplicable failure to use available machinery:

The greater part of the cotton-picking machines are still inoperative. Out of 100 cotton-harvesting machines received by the machine-tractor stations of Nikolayev Oblast not one is being used...

BUGSKAYA ZARYA (25 September) refers to the cotton situation as "frankly alarming," and calls for radical measures to improve it: cotton picking in the oblast has been fulfilled by only 10.5%; and this is an alarming figure. A MOLOT editorial (20 September), voicing a mild complaint about cotton harvesting, is somewhat more articulate in its treatment of mechanization. The director of the oblast Cotton Delivery Bureau is asked to account for his "formalistic and bureaucratic" attitude toward "bringing further mechanization" into the cotton-harvesting operations which can be further advanced with a little more machinery. (The terms 'formalistic' and 'bureaucratic' are frequently used as euphemisms for 'opposing' and 'unwilling'.)

The high-speed method of cotton-picking --"with both hands"--should be applied but isn't, complains NADNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA (26 September). This criticism is directed primarily against the workers sent in from other oblasts to help with the harvesting who, as the editorial puts it, "have lowered the rate of picking instead of raising it." The paper is also curious to know why the cotton graders at the oblast delivery pool (zagotovitelny punkt) are rejecting so many truckloads of cotton "for the most trifling reasons." Left lying in the open and exposed to the elements, the rejected cotton deteriorates and becomes unusable. This, incidentally, is also the common complaint of the other papers mentioned above --all of them stressing a faster harvesting tempo as an essential prerequisite for reducing waste, spoilage, etc.

A report from Odessa (in Ukrainian, 25 September) speaks of the "extremely unsatisfactory" harvesting of cotton, maize and other late crops and of the resulting "great losses" of these crops. The report is diffuse in character and no specific areas are named, but Kominternovsky Rayon (also mentioned earlier by BOLSHEVITSKOYE ZNAMYA) is cited as a typical example of poor performance.

Industry and Mining: A PRAVDA article by Fedoseyev (23 September) suggests the introduction of the cost accounting system as a remedy for the inordinately high production

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costs and wastage in industry. This, says Fedoseyev, should be accompanied by a more efficient use of productive capacity, economic use of raw materials and an "improved" organization of labor. (The cost accounting system --khozraschet-- was introduced in the middle thirties, long before Government subsidies to industry were discontinued, and officially at least, is still in force.)

Regional comment on this aspect of industrial production, however, makes no mention of the accounting system and confines itself to listing the chronic illnesses of Soviet production. Thus KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA (24 September) declares that "soaring" production costs are caused by

...overspending of raw materials and resources, electric power, losses through faulty output, idleness of the equipment and machinery, and low labor productivity.

A glaring example of such mismanagement, the paper points out, are the enterprises of the Alexandria Coal Trust and the Construction Administrations which sustained losses amounting to "hundreds of thousands" of rubles through "lack of economic planning." Party, soviet and trade union officials are urged to "root out all reasons" for the increase of production costs.

NADNEPRYANSKA PRAVDA (25 September) observes that rising growing production costs are the result of "manipulations" by various enterprise managers who usually make a good showing in quantity production but "forget about quality." And quantity production minus the required quality, the paper claims, is tantamount to "faulty output" and is a contributing factor to high production costs. The paper lists a number of Kherson Oblast enterprises which, while achieving their targets, incurred losses "in faulty output" amounting to hundreds of thousands of rubles: "no attempt is being made to reduce faulty output whose dimensions have assumed alarming proportions."

The gap between promise and fulfillment on the part of the miners is bemoaned by the Stalino Oblast trade union chief as reported in the SOTSIALISTICHESKY DONBAS and RADYANSKA DONETSCHYNA (23 September). A formalistic attitude is again blamed for the fact that "not one of the coal combines in the oblast has fulfilled its socialist obligations." RADYANSKA UKRAINA (25 September) details a few instances of poor mining operations and says that a number of mines, far from engaging in a socialist competition, are even behind in their normal quotas. The Voroshilovgrad Coal Combine, for example, "owes the country a great amount of fuel" as more than one half of its mines failed to complete their August assignments. A previous report from Voroshilovgrad (18 September), referring to the same combine, gives the reasons for its failings as "low standard of technical management," "unsatisfactory utilization of machines," and "grave shortcomings in the mass political education among miners."

Familiar complaints of unenthusiastic socialist competition, inadequate preparations for operations in winter conditions and "careless attitude" toward technical equipment are heard also from Erevan (22 September) and Tbilisi (25 September).

Fishing: Deputy Minister of the Fishing Industry Babayan, reviewing the industry's operations for the first eight months of this year, says that although the USSR fishing industry was 22.3% ahead of last year, the following enterprises "did not work to their full capacity": Glav-Kas-Ryb-Prom, Glav-Primor-Ryb-Prom and Glav-Amur-Ryb-Prom of the RSFSR Ministry of Fishing as well as the industries of the Kazakh and Lithuanian SSR. (home service, 21 September)

PARTY ACTIVITIES

Political self-education -- "the main and basic means" for the study of Marxism-Leninism -- shows "serious defects" according to PRAVDA (27 September). Most communists registered as home students, says the editorial, do not succeed in raising their ideological and theoretical knowledge because "there is a tendency" to enroll as many students as possible without giving them any practical assistance. Reminding all the Party organizations of their duty to take the matter under "rigid" control, PRAVDA calls on the press to assist the home students by printing frequent articles on the theoretical side of Marxism-Leninism and sections containing replies to readers' questions.

CHERNOMORSKA KOMUNA (19 September) accuses the Odessa Oblast Lecture Bureau of making "quite a few mistakes". The Party lecturers, whose duty it is to raise the theoretical

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level of both Communists and non-Party citizens alike, appear to be "at a very low theoretical level" themselves. Some rayon Party Committees, says the paper, "have not bothered" to set up lecture groups at all, and where such groups were set up, as in Peschansky Rayon, "they exist only on paper." A similar refrain is heard in KIROVOGRADSKA PRAVDA (20 September) -- "Party organizations are not doing their duty to improve the standard of their political work" -- and from Zaporozhye where "several shortcomings in the Party educational work have been noted." (22 September)

PRAVDA (29 September) makes disparaging comment on Communist Party organs usurping the functions of government organizations. The paper reminds Party officials that it is their duty "to control" administration, not by by-passing the various Soviet and other organs, but by working "through them." (It may be recalled, that Party Committees have often resorted in the past to the direct method of "taking over" the functions of the Soviet organs which are theoretically subordinated to them. Such "interference" by the Party has occasionally been reported in connection with lagging compulsory grain deliveries and similar bottlenecks in Soviet economy, but has invariably been frowned upon by PRAVDA.) The editorial says that the Bryansk Oblast Party Committee has "assumed functions quite unsuited to it." The Party Committee is said to have "taken over" the distribution of fuel and spare parts for agricultural machines, normally the function of the agricultural authorities, "thus depriving them of their status." The paper distinguishes between the functions of the State and the Party, and enjoins local Party committees "to play their part adequately" since their activities must be directed toward "carrying out the policy of the Communist Party which forms the vital basis of the Soviet order."

MISCELLANEOUS

Labor reserves: "Total indifference" to the fate of the boys and girls recruited under the labor reserves system is charged by a MOLOT editorial (16 September). The Rostov oblast administration of labor reserves, declares MOLOT, "stands in a very blameworthy light -- showing not the slightest interest in...the young workers."

Foreign Scientists Welcome: A PRAVDA article by Nesmeyanov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, compares American hostility toward Soviet scientists with the USSR's desire to cooperate on a scientific level, and reiterates the oft-repeated claim of Soviet hospitality:

The USSR Academy of Sciences and scientific institutions are always ready to offer hospitality to foreign scholars desiring to establish friendly relations in the interests of the development of learning.
(20 September)

Latest Soviet claims to Primacy: RED FLEET carries an article by Major Shapovalov (18 September) "establishing" Russian priority in the invention of the projector. The latter, says Shapovalov, was constructed in 1779 by a Russian mechanic, Ivan Kulibin, "many years earlier than in foreign countries." Captain Andreyev, writing in the same paper (29 September), claims the minesweeper as a Russian invention. Among other Russian "priorities" (prioritet) heard on the Moscow radio in the period under review are:

The "unquestionable priority" of the Russians in the discovery of the Antarctic. (Book by Professors Zobov and Chernenko, 19 September)

"Guiding Rockets in a Rarified Atmosphere," invented by Tsiolkovsky
(19 September)

"The first electric motor was designed and used by Jacobi"
(21 September)

"A number of new discoveries in mathematical physics which have by now become classic" were made by Mikhail Ostrogradsky. (in Russian for abroad, 23 September)

"A balloon in which he made the world's first flight" was designed and built by the Russian Kriakutnoy 220 years ago. (RED FLEET, 23 September)

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Civilian Defense: The unification of Dosarm, Dosav and Dosflot into a single organization is reported from Kiev (in Ukrainian, 26 September) as a verbatim repeat of the original TASS announcement (dictation speed, 25 September), but there is no further regional reference to it at this writing. The official reason given for the merger is flexibility of training which it is claimed is attainable only through the pooling of available technical facilities. Colonel-General Kuznetsov is named as the chairman of the organizing committee but the membership of the unified command is not revealed. The new organization is to be known as DOSAAF (Dobrovolnoye Obschestvo Sodeystvia Armii, Aviatsii i Flotu).

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